A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION

Saturday, October 21. 1710.

IN Your Elections for Parliament Men, which at preſent is the Subject of every Man's Diſcourſe, I ſhall not now Enquire into; the Perſons Choſen, or endeavouring to be Choſen, *that may be the Subject of a Diſcourſe by itſelf*; but I am looking another Way, not to who you Chooſe, but your manner of Chooſing; and in this, a Man might Addreſs himſelf to the High-Church themſelves, and refer it to them:—— Whether the carrying their Elections thus by Violence and Tumult, can, in their own Judgment, be any Advantage to their Cauſe, any Reputation to their Party; can the Repreſentatives they Chooſe by this Method, approve of the Practice? Can they Defend it, even in Parliament, when they come there? Nay, can they refrain from Cenſuring, and Condemning it?

Parliaments and Rabbles are two as contrary Things, as any can be imagin'd of their kind—— One is all Order, the other Confuſion; one is Juſtice, the other Force; one calm Reaſoning, the other Clamour and Noiſe; can theſe be born one of another? Can theſe be Cauſe and Conſequence? Can theſe be Antecedent and Relative?—— Can theſe be any Way Contributing to the ſupport of one another? *It is impoſſible.*

From

From hence I muſt take upon me, to tell the Good people that raiſe Mobs and Tumults, to carry on Elections of Parliament Men, even the Repreſentatives you Chooſe, will be oblig'd to Condemn the Methods by which you Chooſe them —— And Reproaching your Conduct as unjuſt, make Laws to prevent the like for the future; and I think it will be hard, if they do not aſſiſt to puniſh ſome of you too.

But this is not all; pray, Gentlemen High-Church, why do you fly out into theſe Exceſſes in Chooſing? —— What, have you no other Way to get your Party in? —— What, dare you not truſt to the Strength of your Numbers? Dare you not refer the Matter to a calm Suffrage? Certainly if your Intereſt was good, there would be no need of this Way of Chooſing; it is certainly a Scandal upon the High Church Cauſe, that it cannot bear the Peoples calm Voice, but they muſt be enflam'd into Rabbles and Tumults, be put into a Ferment, and made Raving Mad; this muſt certainly argue the Weakneſs, not the Strength of a Cauſe, that Flying to Violence, you may aſſiſt the viſible Deficiency of your Numbers, by the Noiſe and Clamour of the People.

London is a Teſt of the Thing I am upon; if the High-Church has a fair Majority of the Livery Men, what need of all the Mobbing, and Vile, Furious, Illegal, Behaviour that has been practiſed there; Honeſt Men have been afraid to come to the Poll, for fear of being abus'd, and many that have attempted to come, have been ſo beaten and bruiſed, kick'd thruſted, and otherwiſe abus'd, that they have thought it a happineſs to get ſafe back again, and have not been able to get up to the Books, and ſo have not poll'd at all ——

A Lane of theſe *Furies* had plac'd themſelves from the Entrance of the Hall, up to the Huſtings, and in the Avenues to the Hall, through whom, as they fin'd the Way on both Sides, every Man that came to Poll, was oblig'd to paſs —— Here unſufferable Inſults and Abuſes, have been Committed, and the Livery Men as they came to Poll, ſo Treated, as is to the ſhame of this well govern'd City to deſcribe.

I do not ſay it is by theſe unjuſt Practices, that the Members are Choſen; I doubt theſe are but part of what have been done, but that is not the Work of this Paper; if your Members are Choſen by the Aſſiſtance of theſe Violences, the Juſtice of the Parliament will, I hope, take care of the reſt, and there I leave it; I ſhall only ſay, if theſe matters are fairly Repreſented to the Parliament, and receive no Cenſure there —— The Parliament muſt ceaſe for ſo long, to Act according to the uſual Juſtice of that Houſe; but of that in it's turn.

Nor do I ſay, that the Members you have Choſen, deſir'd the People to behave in this manner; indeed, it cannot be Rational to think they ſhould, for no Man of Senſe, could deſire to be Choſen by a Practice, which, when Examin'd into, muſt of Neceſſity, make their Election void.

Yet to do the Gentlemen Juſtice, I have not heard that they ſhew'd any publick diſlike of the Thing —— If they did, I ſhould be glad for their own ſakes, and would do them Juſtice, if I knew it.

Now, were it to any purpoſe to ſpeak to theſe Mad-Men, one would ask them a Queſtion; Who is it, Gentlemen, that you think you pleaſe, in this Behaviour? If you do pleaſe the Members you Chooſe, I would be glad to know the Name, but of one Man of them that will own it, and that will own his Choice —— Tho' he were a Member, and might go far to oppreſs the Man that ſhould ſay it —— I think, I could ſay ſo much to him, as would make him bluſh to ſit in that Houſe, and make the reſt ſpue him out of it —— Will any Man tell us, that Mobbs and Rabbles are the Legal Method to make a Repreſentative, the Nature of the Thing confounds ſuch a Suggeſtion —— Mobbing may be making Parliament Men, but it cannot be call'd CHOOSING; Parliaments are to be *Choſen*, not violently Named —— This is to Cram a Parliament down the Nation's Throat, and if once grown into a Cuſtom, where

where will it End? What may not be Pra-ctis'd under such a Licenſe? And if another Party ever gets the Aſcendant, you may, in your turn, ſuffer as deeply as any Body.

Nor can any Man have the Face, I had as good ſay Impudence, to ſay, or ſo much as to imagine, that theſe things pleaſe your Sovereign; what, can Mob and Tumult pleaſe the Queen? You cry out in your Rabbles the Queen, the Queen, and the Church, the Church; Rabbles have pull'd down Queens and Churches; many a Crown has been Sacrifiz'd to the Mob; but 'tis Law, Peace, Juſtice, and calm Government, that can alone Eſtabliſh the Church or the Throne, neither ſtand in need of a Diſtracted Rabble to ſupport them; neither of them can be ſupported by theſe Methods, Tumult often overthrows Government, never aſſiſts it; that Government which conſiſts in giving a looſe to the Rabble, has no Foundation at all that can uphold it—— It would be an Abſurdity too great to need any Reply, to ſuggeſt, that any Man who has the leaſt ſhare in the preſent Government, can deſire, that Things ſhould run up to Riot, Breach of the Peace, and Publick Diſorder.

No, Gentlemen, let what Party ſoever get the Adminiſtration, that is not my Buſineſs; but from that Hour, Mobbs and Tumults are their utter Averſion, if they are in their Senſes—— Tumult is juſt the Reverſe of Government —— The Fury of one, and the Temper of the other are as oppoſite, as Light and Darkneſs, and whoever Adminiſters the Publick Affairs in this Nation, muſt know, that whenever the Mob prevails, their Power ceaſes.

Since then this Rabbling can neither pleaſe the Queen, the Miniſtry, nor the Members you Chooſe, what pretence remains for it? And who is it that it is done to oblige.

Little do the Poor unthinking Rabble imagine, who lures them on, and who they are that ſtand by and Laugh, pleas'd with the Miſchief, and flattering themſelves with the Succeſs they promiſe themſelves, from theſe Things —— Would they hear, they ſhould be told, they are Enemies to the Queen and Government —— Theſe are they, and theſe only, who can rejoyce at theſe Things—— And they rejoyce as they ſee, and are ſenſible, that this is the Way to Diſſolve the Conſtitution, Overthrow the Government, and Dethrone the Queen; nor is this my ſaying alone—— Have we not heard them in their Exceſſs cry out for a New Revolution, nay, Damn the Revolution was ſpoken aloud in our Common Hall among the People; a Famous and well known Perſon, who may be nam'd, *if I am not wrong inform'd*, in his Speech to the Electors, in a certain Town within Thirty Miles of *London*, told them in ſo many Words, that the Revolution was a Faction, and that the Queen poſſeſſing the Crown for Life, the Right could not be deny'd to Deſcend to King *James*'s Son—— The Succeſſion has been publickly Damn'd with full cry, and no *Dutch* Men, no *Dutch* Men, was the Cry, at a known Election.

I am none of thoſe that fear a Parliament ſhould reſtore the Pretender; no, were you to Chooſe a Parliament of Wretches, as impudent as that Party could deſire of you, no Men Diſſolve themſelves, or practiſe againſt the Frame and Conſtitution they ſtand upon; 'tis againſt common Senſe, againſt Nature, and if they are not too Honeſt, they are too Politick.

I am none of thoſe that think the *Tories*, even thoſe of them who are gotten into Publick Employ, have ſo great a want of Senſe, what ever they may have of Grace, as to deſign to bring in the *Pretender*; they may as well tell me, the Queen is in a Plot to Dethrone her ſelf, and ſet up her Enemy: But that theſe new Diviſions, Heats, and Raging Quarrels, are Encouraged, carried on, and rejoyc'd in, by thoſe that would bring in the Pretender, is too plain, —— And would the Common People but ſee who rejoyces, who claps their Hands and who Triumphs, at the Tumults and

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and Riots that are now rais'd among us, their Eyes would be soon open; I shall therefore for the future, apply my self to inform them, if possible, who stands behind the Curtain out of Sight, and Enflames the Quarrel.

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